

12/14/2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544



Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing on behalf of the community access television station I represent, High Five Access Media, to express our disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the Federal Communication's Sept. 25, 2018 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket 05- 311.

We serve all of Eagle County, Colorado with the franchise fees provided by the towns of Vail and Avon. This funding and the services we provide allow us to cover eight local government entities, gavel to gavel, on local cable television and the internet. In most cases, this is the only media coverage of these governments and the only method of communication for residents to stay apprised of the decisions of local leaders and become civically engaged.

In addition to our government coverage, we also offer free monthly workshops to residents, students, nonprofits and government representatives. The skills they've learned allow them, through video, to share their passion, opinions, information or advocate for a cause with and among their neighbors on cable television and the internet.

These services, and many more not mentioned here, comprise an important element of the fabric of our community.

This local presence enables the residents of our county to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

J.K. Perry

Executive Director, High Five Access Media

CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner